

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this Application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-7 and 9-11 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 has been canceled and claims 2-7 and 9-11 have been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-3, 5, 7 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Federlin et al. in view of Herchen; claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Federlin et al. in view of Herchen and Chen et al.; claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Federlin et al. in view of Herchen and Umetsu et al.; and claims 10 and 11 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In light of this indication, claims 10 and 11 have been rewritten in independent form and claims 2-7 and 9 have been amended to depend from the appropriate independent claims.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted this application is in condition for allowance and the rejections noted in the Office Action are moot.

Further, it is respectfully requested this amendment be entered as it places the application in condition for allowance and raises no new issues.

CONCLUSION

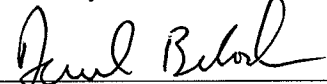
Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact David A. Bilodeau (Reg. No. 42,325) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: **MAR 03 2009**

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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